

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification on page 5, lines 9-10, page 5, lines 19-21, page 13, lines 13-19, and throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 5 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Abdi '386 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Abdi discloses a programmable hysteresis comparator (Title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides an apparatus comprising a voltage generator circuit configured in response to a feedback of an output signal to (i) generate a reference output voltage in response to a plurality of bandgap controlled reference voltages and (ii) switch between the plurality of bandgap controlled reference voltages. A comparator circuit is configured to generate the output voltage in response to a comparison between the reference output voltage and an unknown

voltage. The output voltage comprises hysteresis accurately controlled externally to the comparator circuit. Claims 13 and 14 provide similar limitations. Abdi does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the presently claimed invention.

In particular, Abdi is silent regarding bandgap controlled reference voltages. For example, in FIGS. 1 and 3 of Abdi, the reference voltages VREF1 and VREF2 do not appear to be bandgap controlled reference voltages. The text of Abdi, in particular column 2, merely refers to the voltage VREF1 and VREF2 as reference voltages. Furthermore, Abdi is silent regarding hysteresis accurately controlled externally to the comparator circuit, as presently claimed. In particular, Abdi appears to consistently associate the hysteresis with the comparator. For example, the title of Abdi is programmable hysteresis comparator. The abstract of Abdi discloses a comparator having programmable hysteresis. This terminology appears inconsistent with hysteresis accurately controlled externally to a comparator, as presently claimed. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 6, 7, 9-12 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Abdi is respectfully traversed and

should be withdrawn. Claims 6, 7, 9-12 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims, which are now believed to be allowable.

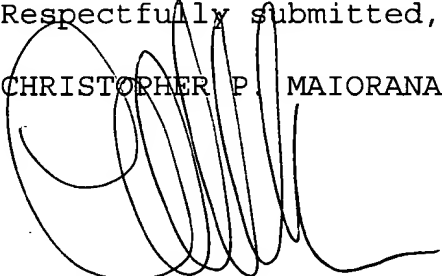
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

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